

and not lower because of his willingness to sacrifice a temporary popularity.

"So, my dear sir, I should be quite unable to tell you whether I was or was not now 'popular/ If I am, I am also entirely prepared to believe that I shall be extremely unpopular before I go out. But this is not what I am concerning myself about. I am not paying heed to public opinion; I am paying heed to the public interest; and if I can accomplish, not all that I desire, but a reasonable proportion of what I desire, by the end of my term (and in the four and a half years that have gone by I have succeeded in accomplishing such reasonable proportion) why, I am more than satisfied."

At intervals during his seven years in the Presidency there was one United States Senator who appealed to the President either to promote some officer in the army over the heads of other officers, or to intercede in behalf of an officer in disgrace for some cause or other, always basing the appeal on personal grounds. Some of the President's replies to these appeals have been published in previous chapters. The following, written on March 2, 1906, is of especial interest as showing the President's devotion to absolute and impartial justice:

"I am very sorry to say that I cannot see Mrs. ----- concerning the court-martial case of her brother. I have been obliged in cases of this kind to make a definite rule that I will not see the delinquent's mother, sister, daughter,

or other kinsfolk. They are the very people  
who under  
no circumstances should ever be seen. They  
are of course  
entirely unable to express any opinion of the  
slightest value  
as to the guilt, innocence, or general  
worthiness of the  
accused; and an appeal for the accused on the  
ground of  
sympathy for his kinsfolk is one which it is  
simply impossi-  
ble to entertain if justice is to be done or  
the service  
not to be ruined. So that to see them means  
nothing  
whatever but an entirely useless harrowing  
of feelings.